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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/202,791	12/22/1998	KOUJI MATSUSHIMA	350292000500	3409

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EXAMINER

WARE, DEBORAH K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1651

DATE MAILED: 06/18/2003

27

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/202,791	Applicant(s) MatsuShima et al.
	Examiner Deborah Ware	Art Unit 1651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jan 7, 2003

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 16-29 and 31-44 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 16-29 and 31-44 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some* c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) Other: _____

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Deborah K. Ware whose telephone number is (703) 308-4245. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays to Fridays from 9:30AM to 6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mike Wityshyn, can be reached on (703) 308-4743. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-3592.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.


Deborah K. Ware

June 13, 2003

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Claims 16-29 and 31-44 are presented for reconsideration on the merits.

The amendment filed January 7, 2003, has been received and entered.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

1. Claims 16-29 and 31-44 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention for reasons of record.

2. The argument filed January 7, 2003, that "indirect causes" is definite is noted. However, limitations from the specification can not be read into the claims. There are many indirect causes which may or may not be intended within the metes and bounds of the claimed subject matter. Thus, the rejection is maintained.

3. Claims 16-29 and 31-44 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Folkesson et al., cited of record, in view of Slotman cited of record in the last office action of July 2, 2002, note pages 4-5.

The argument Folkesson is limited to direct cause is noted, however, indirect causes as disclosed by Slotman would have been expected to be treatable as well. Essentially a disease is an effect which would have been expected to be treated and one of skill would have not reason to not expect successful results from Folksesson based merely on the cause of the disease as alleged by Applicants. Wherein Slotman is lacking, if at all, Folkesson clearly teaches the active ingredient, IL-8 antibody. The IL-8 is clearly disclosed to be useful for a wide variety of diseases

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whether they be indirect or direct. Also the specific indirect diseases Applicants argue are not an absolute requirement of the claims. Slotman is combined with Folkesson wherein it is disclosed that neutralization of IL-8 is critical for appropriate treatment for lung injury. Furthermore, acute lung injury would have been expected to be treated using the cited combination of treatment because Folkesson recognized at the time the Applicants' filed their invention that IL-8 needs to be neutralized and it is known therapy. Therefore, the claims remain *prima facie* obvious over the cited prior art.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

No claims are allowed.

DAVID M. NAFF
PRIMARY EXAMINER
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